TION, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1963.

NY Times P.2

3/26/63

U.S. ARMY TRAINS 600 CUBAN EXILES

Most Took Part in Ill-Fated Invasion of Cuba in 1961

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Special to The New York Times.

MIAMI, March 25 — Six hundred Cubans left Miami last week for special courses in Army training at United States bases, according to the Cuban Revolutionary Council.

The great majority were members of the Cuban brigade that invaded Cuba in April, 1961. The others were Cubans who were trained for the invasion in Miami and in New Orleans, Guatemala and Puerto Rico but did not reach Cuba when the invasion took place.

The Cuban Revolutionary Council headed by Dr. Jose Miro Cardona was established here in 1960 to carry out the abortive invasion. The Council today is regarded by the State Department as the voice of the Cuban exiles in the United States. However, it has little support among the refugees.

Last December, 1,113 members of the invasion brigade who had been captured by the Fidel Castro forces during the invasion were ransomed with $62,000,000 worth of food and medicine. The prisoners were flown to Miami through the efforts of James B. Donovan, a New York lawyer.

Although no official figures are available, the brigade reportedly numbered between 1,200 and 1,400. More than 200 men were killed in the invasion, and the Castro regime executed at least 10 shortly after their capture.

Col. Jessie Unger, who represented the United States Department of Defense in Miami, supervised the enlistment of the Cubans for the special training courses. The exiles were given physical, mental and military examinations, including a lie-detector test, the latter being voluntary.

Out of the approximately 600 who applied, 170 were chosen for officers' training, the Cuban Revolutionary Council said. They will train for 12 weeks at Fort Benning, Ga.

The 430 others were sent to Fort Jackson, near Columbia, S.C., for a 22-week course.

Former Officers Complain

A Cuban Revolutionary Council spokesman said that all who were officers in the invasion had been sent to the officers' training camp, provided they passed the required tests. However, a number in the brigade have complained that despite the fact that they had been officers of the invasion force and had passed the required tests, they were not scheduled for officers' training. They said that only a recommendation of the Cuban Revolutionary Council made officers' training possible. They accused the council of "playing politics," since those turned down had long been enemies of the Revolutionary Council.

When the Cubans complete their training, they will be given an opportunity to join the United States armed forces. However, according to reports here, most of them will not join. They feel they should attack the Castro regime in Cuba, since the United States has no apparent intention of military action there.

The United States has also offered a wide range of civilian training for members of the former invasion brigade, and some have accepted this. Others have refused to accept either of the programs of the United States and are entering revolutionary organizations here that plan military action against the Castro regime.